

I CLAIM:

1. A collapsible fluent material confinement system configured to receive a granular fluent material to form a temporary barrier structure, the fluent material
5 confinement system comprising:

a plurality of strips coupled to one another to form a grid, the plurality of strips including a plurality of lengthwise strips and a plurality of widthwise strips, wherein the lengthwise strips and widthwise strips are coupled with one another such that the grid is movable between an open configuration, in which the cells are expanded to receive the
10 granular fluent material, and at least one collapsed configuration for storage; and

a deployment indicator disposed on a selected strip, wherein the deployment indicator is configured to be effective in low visibility conditions to indicate to a user how to move the grid from the collapsed configuration to the open configuration.

15 2. The fluent material confinement system of claim 1, wherein each strip of the plurality of strips includes a width, wherein at least one selected strip has a greater width than the other strips, and wherein the deployment indicator is disposed on the selected strip.

20 3. The fluent material confinement system of claim 2, wherein two selected strips have a greater width than the other strips, and wherein each of the selected strips includes a deployment indicator.

4. The fluent material confinement system of claim 1, wherein the deployment indicator is configured to visually enhance a portion of the selected strip.

5. The fluent material confinement system of claim 4, wherein the deployment indicator includes a reflective portion.

6. The fluent material confinement system of claim 5, wherein the reflective portion is a background portion, and wherein the deployment indicator includes a directionally indicating portion disposed within the background portion.

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7. The fluent material confinement system of claim 6, wherein the directionally indicating portion includes an alphanumeric portion.

8. The fluent material confinement system of claim 6, wherein the directionally indicating portion includes an arrow indicating a direction in which a user is to pull to move the grid from the collapsed configuration to the open configuration.

9. The fluent material confinement system of claim 6, wherein the at least one collapsed configuration includes a substantially flattened, sheet-like configuration, and wherein the directionally indicating portion indicates a direction the selected strip is to be pulled to move the grid to the open configuration from the substantially flattened, sheet-like configuration.

10. The fluent material confinement system of claim 6, wherein the at least one collapsed configuration includes a substantially flattened, strip-like configuration, and wherein the directionally indicating portion indicates a direction the selected strip is to be pulled to move the grid to the open configuration from the substantially flattened, strip-like configuration.

11. The fluent material confinement system of claim 4, wherein the deployment indicator includes a fluorescent portion.

12. The fluent material confinement system of claim 1, wherein the strips are made of a translucent material.

13. The fluent material confinement system of claim 12, wherein the strips are made of a transparent material.

14. The fluent material confinement system of claim 12, wherein the strips are made of a plastic material.

15. The fluent material confinement system of claim 14, wherein the strips are
5 made of a material selected from the group consisting of PET (poly(ethylene terephthalate)), PETG (a copolyester of 1,4-cyclohexanedimethanol-modified poly(ethylene terephthalate)), PCTG (poly(1,4-cyclohexylene dimethylene terephthalate)), polyvinyl chloride, polycarbonates, and bisphenol A polycarbonate.

10 16. The fluent material confinement system of claim 14, wherein the strips include at least one additive selected from the group consisting of a UV absorber, an impact modifier, and a flexural modifier.

17. A fluent material confinement system configured to receive a granular fluent solid to form a temporary barrier structure, the fluent material confinement system comprising:

a plurality strips, the plurality of strips including a plurality of lengthwise strips and a plurality of widthwise strips coupled with each other to define a plurality of open cells, wherein each strip of the plurality of strips has opposing ends, and wherein each end has a perimeter; and

at least one connecting structure formed in an end of a selected strip, the connecting structure being configured to be coupled to a complementary connecting structure on an adjacent fluent material confinement system to connect the fluent material confinement system to the adjacent fluent material confinement system, wherein the connecting structure includes a tongue formed in the end of the selected strip at a location spaced from the perimeter of the end of the selected strip, and wherein the tongue is configured to fit within a slot on the adjacent fluent material confinement system.

18. The fluent material confinement system of claim 17, wherein the tongue is formed from a slot having a generally “U”-shaped configuration.

19. The fluent material confinement system of claim 17, wherein each lengthwise strip has opposing ends, and wherein each end of each lengthwise strip includes a connecting structure.

20. A method of using a collapsible fluent material confinement system configured to receive a granular fluent material to form a temporary barrier structure, the fluent material confinement system including a plurality of strips coupled to one another to form a grid, the plurality of strips including a plurality of lengthwise strips and a plurality of widthwise strips, wherein the lengthwise strips and widthwise strips are coupled with one another such that the grid is movable between an open configuration, in which the cells are expanded to receive the granular fluent material, and at least one collapsed configuration for storage, the fluent material confinement system also including a deployment indicator disposed on a selected strip, wherein the deployment indicator is configured to be effective in low visibility conditions to indicate to a user how to move the grid from the collapsed configuration to the open configuration, the method comprising:

deploying the grid as directed by the deployment indicator; and

filling the cells of the grid with the granular fluent material.

21. The method of claim 20, wherein deploying the grid as directed by the deployment indicator includes grasping the grid at locations indicated by the deployment indicator.

22. The method of claim 20, wherein deploying the grid as directed by the deployment indicator includes moving a selected strip of the grid in a direction indicated by the deployment indicator.

5 23. The method of claim 20, wherein the grid is a first grid, further comprising deploying a second grid and stacking the second grid on the first grid before filling the cells of the grid with the fluent granular material.

10 24. The method of claim 20, wherein the grid is a first grid, further comprising deploying a second grid and connecting the second grid to the first grid in a side-by-side manner before filling the cells of the grid with the fluent material.

25. The method of claim 24, wherein connecting the second grid to the first grid includes inserting a tongue on the first grid through a slot on the second grid.

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26. A collapsible fluent material confinement system configured to receive a granular fluent material to form a temporary barrier structure, the fluent material confinement system comprising:

a plurality of strips coupled to one another to form a grid, the plurality of strips including a plurality of lengthwise strips and a plurality of widthwise strips, wherein the lengthwise strips and widthwise strips are coupled with one another such that the grid is movable between an open configuration, in which the cells are expanded to receive the granular fluent material, and at least one collapsed configuration for storage; and

an orientation indicator disposed on a selected strip, wherein the orientation indicator is configured to be effective in low visibility conditions to indicate to a user the orientation of the grid to facilitate stacking of a plurality of the grids.

27. The fluent material confinement system of claim 26, wherein the grid is a first grid, and wherein the orientation indicator is configured to be aligned with an orientation indicator of a second grid when the second grid is stacked on the first grid.

28. The fluent material confinement system of claim 26, the grid having a corner, wherein the orientation indicator is disposed on a selected strip adjacent the corner of the grid.

29. The fluent material confinement system of claim 28, the selected strip having a height, wherein the orientation indicator extends the height of the selected strip.

30. A method of using a plurality of collapsible fluent material confinement systems to form a temporary barrier structure, the fluent material confinement system including a plurality of strips coupled to one another to form a grid, the plurality of strips including a plurality of lengthwise strips and a plurality of widthwise strips, wherein the lengthwise strips and widthwise strips are coupled with one another such that the grid is movable between an open configuration, in which the cells are expanded to receive a granular fluent material, and at least one collapsed configuration for storage, the fluent material confinement system also including an orientation indicator disposed on a selected strip, wherein the orientation indicator is configured to be effective in low visibility conditions to indicate to a user the orientation of the grid to facilitate stacking of a plurality of the grids, the method comprising:

15 deploying a first grid;
 deploying a second grid;
 placing the second grid over the first grid;
 aligning the orientation indicator of the second grid with the orientation indicator of the first grid;
20 coupling the second grid to the first grid such that the orientation indicator of the second grid remains aligned with the orientation indicator of the first grid; and
 filling the first and second grids with a granular fluent material.